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update

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The groundwork is being layed for a national planning and economic management system in Somalia. Above is a Somali refugee child.

In this issue:

Operation Ninja: saving rare tortoises—Accord expands broadcast reach of AZIMUTHS TV documentary — Programme launched to save Aral Sea — UNDP signs energy agreement

UN Development Office in Somalia gears up for tasks ahead

As Somalia begins rebuilding the country and recreating a central government destroyed by civil conflict, the United Nations system is setting up a structure to give maximum planning and management assistance.

Under an agreement recently worked out by the United Nations and its agencies, donors and representative Somalis, UNDP will play the lead role in managing the UN Development Office (UNDO) in Somalia. The agreement sets out the structure, function and mandate of UNDO, which in turn will work closely with the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN agencies to help the Somali people to plan and manage reconstruction, and to lay the foundation for a future national planning and economic management system.

The civil conflict which has raged over the past three years in Somalia has devastated national institutions and infrastructure. As a result of the collapse of the central government, no central planning mechanism exists. For this reason, increased emphasis has been placed on regional planning although support will also need to be provided to the central government when it is formed. Since its establishment late last year, the UNDO has succeeded in providing support for regional planning and has begun identifying projects that could be funded by donors. In recent months, a number of Regional Development Committees have been established to design and carry out regional rehabilitation and reconstruction plans.

The regional approach should lead to a series of specific project proposals for funding consideration by the donor community. These regional initiatives will serve as the foundation for a more formal longer term planning process. Given the lack of appropriate economic and social data necessary for effective economic planning, project support will also help establish an appropriate statistical data base. In addition, a core of Somali experts will be trained in development planning and economic management so they will be able to assume responsibility for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes.

Since its creation last year, the Development Office has been run by the UNOSOM II as part of its Department of Humanitarian Affairs. The UN Secretary General recently approved a plan to transfer responsibility for the Development Office to UNDP. The transfer was requested by the donor community which felt UNDP was in the best position to help the Somali people define their priority development needs for donor funding.

Aside from helping the Somali people to plan and manage reconstruction, the UNDO will also provide secretariat services to the donors' Somali Aid Coordination Body and its Standing Committee. The headquarters of the UNDO will be located in Nairobi, Kenya until security

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and logistical considerations permit a permanent move to Mogadiscio.

Operation Ninja — Saving rare tortoises on the Galapagos Islands

UNDP allocated emergency funds to help launch "Operation Ninja", a rescue mission to save rare tortoises on Isabela Island, the largest island in Ecuador's Galapagos chain. Fire broke out on the island a few months ago, destroying 5,000 hectares and threatening two rare sub-species of the endangered giant Galapagos tortoise, whose nesting areas were located near the fire. UNDP, along with Ecuador's Army, the Galapagos Presidential Commission, the National Park Service, UNESCO, and the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva undertook a search-and-rescue mission to airlift the tortoises in nets to a holding facility in nearby Puerto Villamil.

Of the 14 giant tortoise sub-species that once roamed freely in the Galapagos Islands, and for which the islands are named, three are now extinct, and the others are considered endangered. "As a result of UNDP's intervention these tortoises were saved from the risk of the fire as well as the potential risk posed by poachers," says Mario Salzmann, UNDP Resident Representative in Ecuador.

The rescue mission, which ultimately saved 14 of the scarce giant tortoises, started initially because of the fire, but also served to protect the animals from poachers who could gain easier access to nesting areas through paths cleared by the blaze.

The UNDP emergency funds were used primarily to cover the logistics involved in this operation. Emergency funds coordinated by the UNDP Resident Representative were also used for a veterinarian and the construction of temporary facilities in Puerto Villamil. These tortoises could be used in future for a breeding programme to repopulate the islands.

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A Galapagos tortoise airlifted to safety.

Latin America, Spain and Portugal receiving AZIMUTHS TV documentary through new accord

UNDP has concluded an agreement with HISPASAT, a Spanish firm that beams television programmes via satellite throughout Spain, Portugal and Latin America. The accord calls for the Spanish version of AZIMUTHS, UNDP's award-winning monthly half-hour TV documentary, to be broadcast as a part of HISPASAT's "Television Educativa Iberoamericana" programme. The programme is transmitted via satellite to cable and hertzian TV stations, as well as to numerous educational organizations and institutions.

The UNDP/HISPASAT agreement brings to 180 the number of countries receiving AZIMUTHS, including several that are reached via the BBC World Service. UNDP began the documentary series two and a half years ago to communicate the goals of development to TV viewers worldwide and to show that progress toward sustainable human development is being made in many corners of the globe. More than 100 six-to-ten minute reports produced to date cover such topics as drug abuse control and efforts to curb the spread of AIDS and other diseases like river blindness and bilharzia. AZIMUTHS is funded by UNDP and a number of other UN organizations and agencies. It is produced in English, French and Spanish by a small team, based at UNDP's Geneva office, which has travelled to over 40 countries to report the stories. The programme is distributed through a network of some 70 broadcast companies.

Programme launched to rescue the Aral Sea

Donors pledged $31.4 million for a long-term international programme to tackle the environmental and development problems caused by deterioration of the entire Aral Sea Basin in Central Asia.

At a meeting hosted by UNDP in Paris last month, the World Bank, and the UN Environment Programme offered financial support for the first phase of a programme prepared by the five riparian states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Their funds will primarily finance feasibility studies and help to build local institutions necessary to carry out the programme.

A joint statement from the non-govern-

mental organizations of the Aral Sea region urged meeting participants to "involve the civil society in an integrated and coordinated regional response to the crisis." The statement outlined certain priorities that the Aral Sea Programme should target, including actions to improve public health, create jobs, restore sustainable agriculture and conserve water resources in the region.

The Aral Sea Programme has four main objectives: to stabilize the Aral Sea environment; to rehabilitate the disaster zone immediately around the Sea; to improve management of the international waters of the Aral Sea Basin; and to build the capacity of regional institutions to plan and implement the programme.

The full-scale project will include conservation of water resources, the management of water demand growth, the improvement of water use efficiency, as well as considerations of the social, cultural and environmental impact of water resources development.

Maureen Lynch/UNDP

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth (left) signing a memorandum of understanding between UNDP and the E7 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment. With him is Mr. Jean-Louis Fleury, Director of the E7 Network Secretariat in Montreal.

UNDP and E7 Network to Cooperate on Energy and the Environment

A memorandum of understanding was signed on 29 June by UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth and Mr. Richard Drouin, chairman of both the E7 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment and of the company Hydro-Quebec. The E7 is a body comprised of the world's leading electric utility companies from G7 countries. It was formed in 1992 by their chairmen to address global environment issues and to promote safe and efficient use of electricity. Often at the leading edge of technology in this field, the E7 recently established the Network to provide technical assistance and advisory services to developing countries with the aim of reducing the global environmental impacts of electricity generation, transmission and utilization. Energy demands in the developing world are expected to steadily increase, and there is an urgency to ensure that these demands are met in a manner which is both cost efficient and sustainable, while having minimal negative impact on the environment.

The new partnership between UNDP and the E7 Network will enable these large utility companies to channel technical expertise through UNDP to support developing country efforts that aim to integrate environmental considerations into power sector planning. The type of activities envisaged for cooperation could include the installation or upgrading of pollution control systems; the upgrading of existing inefficient facilities and the promotion of fuel efficient technologies. In addition to providing this expertise free of charge through the UNDP-E7 partnership, training programmes in the selected countries will be set up. Some projects are already being considered in Latin America and in the Arab States, and activities are expected to get underway later this year.

Approved projects:

(all projects subject to modification, sums quoted in US dollars)

Burkina Faso — Management of Natural Forests — This project will help to formulate and carry out management plans for the natural forests covering 100,000 hectares around Ouagadougou. At the same time, the villagers' standard of living will be improved through a rational and sustainable production of firewood destined for Ouagadougou.

UNDP contribution: $5,146,000. Funds will be used for research, training, international experts in forest management, livestock, agro-forestry, wood processing and forest regeneration, subcontracts for cartography, technical stud-

ies and construction. Executed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. (BFK/93/003)

Madagascar — Regional Development of Ambato Boeni — This programme will help improve the quality of life of the 96,000 people in the Ambato Boeni region of Madagascar. This wide-ranging regional investment programme will help to increase basic food production, provide protection against environmental degradation, support the government's decentralization efforts by strengthening village-level land management, boost private sector development, and improve the capacity of regional and municipal institutions.

Specifically, village land management surveys will be undertaken in more than 40 communities to establish natural resource conservation and management programmes. Assistance for construction of schools, health clinics, water supply systems and access roads will be provided. Credit and micro-investment schemes will be set up to boost agricultural production, and a municipal development fund will be established for urgent rehabilitation works.

Contribution from the UN Capital Development Fund: $4.5 million. UNDP contribution: $1 million. Funds will be used for experts, equipment, local investment funds, and training. (MAG/94/CO1)

Mauritania — Wind Electric Power and Social and Economic Development — This project was designed to build on a successful collaborative effort between the Government of Mauritania and the French NGO, GRET (Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques) to establish a sustainable programme of village-based water supply using wind-powered water pumps. The programme has been able to provide clean water on a reliable and continuous basis in more than 50 villages.

This Global Environment Facility programme will provide support to help determine the needs, markets and opportunities for the use of small-scale wind electric technologies in the rural sector. The project experience will be shared with investors and the international development community.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $2 million. Funds will be used for experts, training, subcontracts and equipment. The lead Government Authority for implementing the programme is the Ministry of Water and Energy. (MAU/93/G31)

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UN Secretary-General requests assistance of UNDP Administrator to ensure development policy coherence

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali requested UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth to assist him in improving the coordination of UN operational activities for development, and strengthening coherence of UN development policies. An announcement issued by a spokesman for the Secretary-General on 27 July stated: "The Secretary-General has followed with keen interest the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at its current session, and has taken note of the strong emphasis on the need for action to make the United Nations machinery operate more effectively in the development and international economic cooperation arenas, as well as for improved coordination at the field level. The Secretary-General is also concerned about strengthening linkages between emergency assistance rehabilitation and long-term development.

"The Secretary-General has accordingly decided to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] to assist him in ensuring policy coherence and enhancing coordination within the United Nations itself, in particular among headquarters departments, the regional commissions and the funds and programmes of the Organization.

"The Secretary-General has further decided to entrust the Administrator of the UNDP with overall responsibility for assisting him in improving the coordination of operational activities for development, including the strengthening of the resident coordinator system."

United Nations agencies to create joint AIDS Programme

The World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS, formed in 1986, will be replaced by a new co-sponsored programme involving six UN agencies — UNDP, WHO, the World Bank, the UN Population Fund, UNICEF, and UNESCO. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) approved a resolution on 26 July to establish this new "joint and co-sponsored UN Programme on HIV/AIDS." The separate AIDS programmes of the five participating agencies will be headquartered in Geneva, starting in 1996.

"The speed with which the HIV virus is spreading throughout the world and the potential devastation which it can bring to communities and nations makes coordination of the UN system response a global imperative," said Elizabeth Reid, Director of the HIV and Development Programme of UNDP. She addressed the Economic and Social Council on behalf of the six agencies which proposed the new UN programme on HIV/AIDS.

According to the ECOSOC resolution, the programme is based on "co-ownership, collaborative planning and execution, and an equitable sharing of responsibility." WHO will be responsible for the

A new co-sponsored AIDS programme will involve six UN agencies. African school children learning about AIDS.

In this issue:

New Sustainable Development Advisers briefed on UNDP initiatives — UNDP-sponsored Roundtable addressed poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration

administration in support of the programme.

Priority will be given to activities at the country level. The programme will "strengthen national capacities to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor the overall response to HIV/AIDS," said the ECOSOC resolution.

Globally, the joint programme will support policy formulation, strategic planning, technical guidance, research and development, advocacy and external relations. This will include such activities related to HIV/AIDS as social and economic planning, population, culture, education, community development and social mobilization and sexual and reproductive health. Women and adolescents will be among the main target beneficiaries.

Rafeeuddin Ahmed appointed Associate Administrator of UNDP

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, James Gustave Speth, announced on 5 August the appointment of Rafeeuddin Ahmed as Associate Administrator of UNDP. "Mr. Ahmed brings to his new functions an enormous breadth of experience of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields as well as humanitarian affairs", Mr. Speth said. "He will be a great asset to UNDP."

Since 1 April 1992, Mr. Ahmed has held the post of Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Prior to that, from 1 January 1987, Mr. Ahmed held the post of Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, while continuing to serve as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia.

From 1 January 1983, he was Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization. Mr. Ahmed joined the Secretariat in May 1970 as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council, and from February 1973 he served as Director of the Resources and Programme Planning Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. From May 1975, he held the post of Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General until September 1978, when he became Chef de Cabinet. Mr. Ahmed entered the Foreign Service of Pakistan in October 1955 and held diplomatic posts in Beijing, Cairo and Ottawa.

He served as Director for United Nations Affairs and Economic Coordination in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from February 1968 until joining the Secretariat. While a member of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations from May 1965 to 1968, Mr. Ahmed was his country's representative in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) during the twentieth to the twenty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly. In that period he also represented Pakistan at sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Trade and Development Board, the Industrial Development Board and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.

Mr. Ahmed studied at the University of the Punjab in Lahore and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economic and political science in 1951 and a Master of Arts degree in political science in 1953. He later studied international economics and international law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachussets, USA.

New Sustainable Development Advisers briefed on UNDP initiatives

Thirty-five environment and development experts from developing countries, newly hired by UNDP, came to New York for a two-week briefing from 17-29 July. These new Sustainable Development Advisers will play a key role in adapting UNDP programme activities to meet the objectives of the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. They will offer technical advice and review UNDP programmes and projects in order to incorporate environmentally sustainable aspects into development planning. The advisers will initiate capacity building programmes related to Agenda 21 follow-up activities, and coordinate UNDP efforts in such areas as the Global Environment Facility, the Montreal Protocol, Capacity 21, and the Sustainable Development Network. These advisers will also assist in bolstering capacity of national and international staff in environmental management and sustainable development. In addition, they will serve as advocates for the Earth Summit-related environment conventions, principles and treaties including the ones on desertification, forestry, climate change and biodiversity.

One aim of the recent briefing was to help the new advisers develop an understanding of UNDP's current development agenda. The gathering also gave them a chance to exchange experiences and share expertise in environmental fields. They were informed about major UNDP initiatives, sources of funds and environmental priorities. The regional bureaux also had time to brief them on regional themes and strategies.

Two years ago, UNDP conducted a review of its internal capabilities to meet the growing demands of developing countries in the area of sustainable devel-

opment. The study concluded that the environmental units in many programme offices were not able to handle the new demands.

In response, the Executive Board of UNDP and the UN Population Fund last year approved 41 new posts for Sustainable Development Advisers to boost UNDP's ability to incorporate environmental concerns into sustainable development programming. The Board recently made a similar decision which authorized UNDP to hire a limited network of up to 22 HIV and Development National Professional Officers to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. These decisions are part of UNDP's strategy of increasing decentralization of operational responsibility to the programme offices.

Agenda 21, a global blueprint plan for action which came out of the Earth Summit, calls on UNDP to take the lead in organizing UN system efforts towards building environment and development capacity at local, national and regional levels, and assisting developing countries in the establishment of national coordination networks. To meet these increased responsibilities, UNDP needed to recruit highly qualified technical staff in many country offices.

UNDP-sponsored Roundtable addressed poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration

More than 150 prominent international thinkers, Nobel laureates, political leaders, development experts, academics, journalists and business executives convened in Stockholm, Sweden, 22-24 July to search for solutions to three issues — poverty, unemployment, and social cohesion — now looming as among the most urgent to confront the global community in the closing years of the century.

The Roundtable was organized under the auspices of UNDP by its Development Study Programme in cooperation with the Government of Sweden. Participants grappled with the question, "Change: Social Conflict or Harmony?" It was the third in a series on *Global Change* that began in 1990.

The Roundtable findings were designed to make a substantive contribution to the World Summit for Social Development scheduled to be held next year in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Roundtable also reviewed proposals for broadening the concept of security beyond political consideration to include the social and economic aspects that contribute to human security and global stability.

"Today there is a new awareness that the social, economic, and military aspects of security are indivisible," said UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a prepared statement. "In a sense we can return to the original version of the framers of the Charter. The inter-relationship between elements previously regarded as separate and compartmentalized — such as peace, the environment, social justice, democracy, and development — is now both understood, and, increasingly, accepted by the international community," said the Secretary-General.

James Gustave Speth, Administrator of UNDP and the convener of the Roundtable, said, "We need to shift from territorial security to security in people's lives, from security through arms to security through sustainable human development." He also said that the Social Summit "should be — and must be — the Summit for Human Security."

The Roundtable analyzed why efforts to date have failed to ensure human security. It took a fresh look at some of the most contentious issues under these themes, asking:

- Why, despite marked progress in improving human well-being over the past three decades, does poverty still remain as serious as ever?
- How have some regions or some countries managed to reduce the magnitude of poverty more significantly than others?
- What are the new methods to be applied at national, regional and international levels to enhance social integration, alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment, and attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social equity in growth-oriented sustainable development?

Approved projects:

(all projects subject to modification; amts quoted in US dollars)

Ecuador — Strengthening the National System for Protected Areas — The main objective of this project is to preserve Ecuador's biodiversity by strengthening and restructuring the institutional capacity and overall policy and legal framework for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. Support will be used to establish policies, strengthen planning and management of protected areas, provide training and education, and improve community development in managing the protected areas.

UNDP contribution: $100,000. Global Environment Facility contribution: $8,191,850. Funds will be used for experts, equipment, training and subcontracts for ecotourism and environmental monitoring systems. Executed by the Institute Ecuatoriano Forestal de Areas Naturales y Vida Silvestre. (ECU/93/015)

Mexico — Assistance for Electoral Observation — This project will help to strengthen the capacity of civil society in Mexico to observe the federal elections which are scheduled for 21 August 1994. The UN Electoral Unit will send a team of advisers to Mexico to establish the meth-

ods, based on internationally accepted standards, for election observation. Some of these advisers will be dispatched to each of the 31 states to assist in training national election observers. Provisions will be made to ensure resources for transportation and office space for the national observers.

Third-party cost-sharing: $4,754,625. UNDP will provide a project coordinator, international consultants, international advisers and technical advisers. Executed by the Office for Project Services of UNDP. (MEX/94/001)

Afghanistan — Rural Rehabilitation — This programme will continue to assist in the rehabilitation of rural infrastructure to improve the quality of life for the rural population, and create conditions required for the return and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons. Special emphasis will be placed on reconstruction of irrigation, water and sanitation systems, and road repair.

UNDP contribution: $17,725,692. Third-party cost-sharing: $10,000,000. Funds will be used for experts, equipment, and subcontracts with Afghan or international implementing partners and NGOs. The lead government authority is the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Executed by the Office for Project Services of UNDP. (AFG/94/001)

Afghanistan —Urban Rehabilitation Programme — This programme will support the local process of repair and recovery of infrastructure in the urban areas of Afghanistan. A neighbourhood action programme will assist urban communities to improve their water and sanitation facilities, roads, sidewalks and shelters. Assistance will be provided for emergency street cleaning. In addition, support will be provided to develop the capacity of municipal authorities to undertake long-term urban rehabilitation.

UNDP contribution: $4,918,025. Funds will be used for consultants, training, equipment, subcontracts with implementing partners, and establishing neighbourhood and municipal funds. The lead government authority is the Council of Municipalities. Executed by the UN Centre for Human Settlements. (AFG/93/002)

Afghanistan — Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme — Tens of thousands of people have been disabled through injuries sustained during the war in Afghanistan. This project is aimed at improving the quality of life of 15,000 people with disabilities. It will focus on mobilizing community resources, and creating educational, vocational and social opportunities in five target regions. Local communities will be involved in the planning, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of the programme.

UNDP contribution: $1,072,000. Third-party cost-sharing: $1,072,000. Funds will be used for training, experts, equipment and subcontracts. The programme will be implemented at the field level by sub-contracted NGOs, assisted by expertise from WHO, UNESCO, ILO and Radda Barnen, a Swedish NGO. It will be executed by the Office for Project Services of UNDP. (AFG/93/003)

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